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ATTITUDE OF MR. ROOSEVELT

Harper's Weekly of July 17, 1909, contains an article under the caption, "The Truth About Prohibition in Maine." Mr. Holman Day Versus Certain Fanatics." The article is important because it quotes an interview with Mr. Day, who is a prominent editor of Maine, in which he gives the particulars of an interview had with Mr. Roosevelt, the latter having called Mr. Day to Washington for a conference. This interview shows clearly the attitude of Theodore Roosevelt toward statutory prohibition as illustrated by the experience of Maine. The article is well worth reading and is as follows:

"The grand jury of Cook county, Illinois, in session at Chicago, has found an indictment for criminal libel against William F. F. Ferguson, editor and publisher of the National Prohibitionist, published in Chicago. The complaint is Holman Day of Maine, whose articles on prohibition, recently published in Harper's Weekly, elicited the libel for which Ferguson has been indicted. The Harper articles attracted much attention throughout the country and were widely copied and commented on. The facts presented by Mr. Day have not been impeached. Ferguson, in an editorial utterance, stated that the conditions as pictured in the articles existed in Maine, since Mr. Day was in a position to know whereof he spoke; and then the editor of the National Prohibitionist proceeded to make a wilful attack upon the moral character of Mr. Day, imputing to him offenses so ridiculously and shamefully false that the state of Maine, of which Mr. Day has been a widely known and honorable resident all his life, is in danger on his behalf. Among the friends of Mr. Day who wrote from all parts of the country to urge him to take steps to punish such reckless vilifiers was Colonel Henry Watterson of Kentucky, whose name appeared in the libelous editorial as one who felt that Mr. Day needed the endorsement that Colonel Watterson had given him in the Courier Journal. At the suggestion of Colonel Watterson Mr. Day engaged H. H. Huffer, Esq., of Louisville, an able attorney and a personal friend of Colonel Watterson's, and with him proceeded to Chicago armed with complete refutation of the charges contained in the organ of the prohibitionists.

"The indictment followed promptly and the case has been marked for trial in the early fall of 1909. 'In taking this step,' says Mr. Day, 'I am not actuated by any mere spirit of revenge. I am not conducting a campaign against prohibition, as a cause, nor do I hold any brief in defense of the whiskey interests. I was asked by reputable publishers, anxious to put facts before their readers to describe conditions in Maine after nearly sixty years' experience in attempting to enforce the prohibitory law. On the appearance of my first article President Roosevelt summoned me to Washington and, in interview, continuing parts of two days, commended my manner of presenting real evidence before a grand jury composed of the thinking people of the United States. He urged me to continue the presentation of the case. In

GOVERNOR NOT FOR COUNTY OPTION

(Omaha Daily News, November 14.) County option will not be written into the platform of the Nebraska Democracy next year, regardless of the position of W. J. Bryan, if Governor Shallenbarger can prevent it.

"County option means prohibition," declared the governor on his arrival in Omaha this morning, "and Mr. Bryan is illogical in his statements that he is a county optionist, but not a prohibitionist."

"Mr. Bryan has indicated in numerous conferences that he is an optionist, but not a prohibitionist, but the very principle of county option is prohibition."

"The liquor problem will be one of the main issues of the campaign," said the governor, "and I do not deem it advisable for the democratic party to adopt a county option plank."

"The liquor laws, with the daylight saloon act passed by a democratic legislature, are being more rigidly enforced than ever before and I believe that a rigid enforcement of liquor statutes is to be preferred to county option."

"It is too early to draft a platform and I believe that we should wait until the situation develops."

Attitude of Democratic Press.

(Columbus Telegram.) The Telegram prefers the method of law rather than the method of the bootleg. And when we say we prefer the method of the law it is with the understanding that all laws governing the sale of liquor shall be enforced to the letter.

We favor obedience to the law for two reasons:

1. Because it is right.
2. Because only by strict enforcement of the present Nebraska liquor laws can Nebraska escape prohibition.

We are glad to be able now to state that this is the view of the great majority of the country democratic press in Nebraska and the Telegram always feels safe when traveling the path which the majority of the democratic editors are pointing out as the right path.

Bishop Scannell's Admission.

Rev. Richard Scannell, bishop of the Catholic diocese of Omaha, delivered a notable sermon at St. Cecilia church in Omaha Sunday, November 14. The bishop admonished the women to eschew politics. He criticized the activities of the woman temperance crusaders. On this point he said:

"Instead of these women striving for total abstinence they should be working in the cause of temperance," said Bishop Scannell. "Men have a practical judgment in this matter and do not look for the ideal perfection. Therefore, I see no advantage to be derived from the women being admitted into the political arena."

Figures That Burn.

(Worcester Post.) The prohibitory brethren should not be discouraged because the number of arrests for drunkenness tallied only 2,340 for the year ending with the first of last month. Lewiston and its neighboring Auburn in Maine with about a third of Worcester's population had 1,600 of them last year according to the Lewiston Journal. This is fully twice our rate in proportion to population. But these cities have had nearly sixty years' training in "prohibition" and our rate of progress to the bad is such that we can overtake them if the force continues for another year.

The Journal says the great part of the men arrested there were dipomaniacs appearing over and over again. This is also the usual result of "prohibition" and the stuff that flows under it and the way it is swilled down in bulk purchases and in secret and irresponsible dives.

Effects of No-License Boose

(Worcester Post.) "It is easy enough for me to see the effects of no-license," said a druggist to Saunterer this morning. "Every morning there is a line of men at my soda fountain waiting for their bromo, a drink that is supposed to take down the head of the morning after, and they come in here in an awful condition. Their hands sometimes shake so that they can't lift the bromo to their mouth without using both hands. This no-license boose is certainly the stuff that kills. And the most pitiful thing about it is the number of young fellows that have gone to the bad this year. I don't

believe there were ever so many before. They come in here every morning with their faces pale and their hands shaking, after some drug that will straighten them out. It certainly is a shame." With that he turned to the soda fountain to mix a bromo for a man waiting there.

Thirty-Four Murders.

Discussing the subject of crime in prohibition states, the Chicago Record-Herald, in an editorial, makes this statement: "In Jefferson county, Alabama, the county that includes Birmingham, there were thirty-four murders in the first twenty days of April."

Cannot Understand.

(Alma Record.) Considerable agitation is heard regarding one of the two big political parties adopting the county option plank, but the writer fails to understand just why either the republican or democratic party should wish to steal the prohibition party's thunder.

COUNTY PROHIBITION.

(Omaha World-Herald, October 25.) Thanks are due the ladies of the W. C. T. U. for plainly and unambiguously defining the liquor issue as it will be presented in Nebraska next year. Those who are for prohibition and those who are against it, those who are for county option and those who are against it, are alike and equally interested in knowing exactly what it is they are fighting about. Nobody wants to win by taking an unfair advantage, and no victory would be permanent that was won by befogging the issue and deceiving the people.

Mrs. Frances B. Heald, the president of the state organization, in pleading with the national organization to endorse the stand in favor of county option which the Nebraska W. C. T. U. has taken, made this frank statement:

The Anti-Saloon League county option bill was submitted to the executive committee of the state W. C. T. U. and found to be county prohibition and nothing else. The officers of the Anti-Saloon League have pledged us their word that they will join with us in working for state-wide prohibition the minute this county prohibition bill is passed.

This makes the issue so plain that he who runs may read.

County option is desired first, not because it is county "option," but because it is "county prohibition."

As soon as county prohibition is obtained the advantage thus won is to be used immediately to advance the campaign for state prohibition, which, if successful, will wipe county "option" out of existence.

The one is to be merely the stepping stone to the other. Without county prohibition the prohibition forces believe it would be extremely difficult to secure state prohibition. But with county prohibition they are confident it will be impossible to defeat state prohibition.

Right of Trial by Jury.

(Louisville Courier-Journal.) The state of Alabama, which has been in a condition of aberration for some time, now proposes to withdraw right of trial by jury in an effort to enforce the Fuller law providing for the abolition of liberty in the interest of an anti-liquor crusade. While the right of trial by jury is customarily spoken of as inalienable, it is so only when a state of sanity in the body politic is presumed. The federal constitution protects the right against violation by congress and the federal judiciary, but except as they are restrained by their own constitutions, states may abolish the jury system. The extremism expressed in the Fuller law made it plain when the bill was passed that the forces behind it were slated for ultimate defeat. The next exploit of the fanatics was to inaugurate a movement to amend the Alabama constitution in the interest of the Fuller law. Now comes as a logical development an effort to gain the desired end by denying the accused liquor sellers the right to be tried under a system that has stood for some seven centuries in the most highly civilized countries, despite its undoubted defects. Anti-prohibitionists in Alabama should hail this latest development joyously. It will hasten the overthrow of the opposing forces.

Liquor Cannot Be Seized.

(Press Dispatch.) Guthrie, Okla., Nov. 5.—Judge Cotter in the United States district court here reaffirmed his decision that state officials cannot interfere with interstate commerce shipments, thus restraining the state officers from seizing shipments of liquor before they have been delivered to the consignees.



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ARRAIGNMENT OF PROHIBITION

(Portland Oregonian, Oct. 30, 1909.) The Oregonian stands for strict regulation of the liquor trade, and for strict enforcement of the regulations. It opposes prohibition because it does not consider prohibition reasonable or just; because it authorizes and provides unnecessary restrictions upon personal conduct and private right; because it forces a secret trade that is more injurious than the open trade under regulation; because it strikes a blow at many useful and important industries; because its enactment by any state is a sign of narrow provincialism, and Oregon ought to be kept out of this class of states. To enter it would be hurtful in many ways to her reputation for sanity, and in many ways hurtful to her business and industry. A prohibition state is a small, wrangling community. Washington and California will not be prohibition states. Should we adopt prohibition it would be one of many other proofs that we were falling behind in the race of progress; that the "dry rot" had not only struck us, but had sunk deep. No pun intended in the phrase about "dry rot."

On this subject, now a year in advance of the time when the vote on state prohibition is to be taken, The Oregonian uses the opportunity to declare its position. It knows it must declare its position frankly on the subject; and it cannot shrink the duty it knows, moreover, that its readers who consider this subject from a reasonable point of view will agree with it; that others, who simply consider the subject from the standpoint of their opposition to a trade that in irresponsible hands becomes an instrument of abuse and must be subjected to correction of law, statutory and moral, will not agree with it. The appeal is to the larger and wiser judgment. The appeal is to those who understand the expression of the moral post of two thousand years ago who exclaimed, "What can laws avail when the customs of the people, their social conditions and wants, the various requirements of their business and industry, do not call for the legal enactments?" In such cases laws are not only vain—empty, that is to say—but in many ways may be positively hurtful. Morality is not based on law, but law on morality. They who desire to prohibit in their own localities have the opportunity now—in local option.

The opportunity has been abused as the Oregonian foretold it would be, by enabling the rural districts to force prohibition on the county towns that didn't want it. This forcing process is now to be attempted on all Oregon—on all protesting towns and cities and communities in the state of Oregon. It is the opinion of The Oregonian that it will not succeed; but should it succeed the consequence will be injurious to the state in many ways—in a multitude of ways—materially, industrially and morally—by giving the state an undesirable reputation, in company with the narrowness of Maine and Kansas; by keeping people out of our borders who have breadth of view and want reasonable freedom of action; by generating a secret trade and setting the meanest among us to spy upon their neighbors; by weakening personal and moral responsibility among those whom the state would undertake to coddle and to protect (or kill) with kindness. Character, neither for individuals nor for states, is made in this way. Personal responsibility is basis of all. There are other features of the argument which, perhaps, may be developed later—particularly as to the offensive intrusion of clericals and priests, who use their argument as an instrument for holding the ascendancy of dogmatic pretension over the general mind.

Infringes a Sacred Right.

(Press Dispatch.) Mobile, Ala., Sept. 21.—In the inferior criminal court this morning in the trial of alleged violators of the Fuller prohibition law, Judge Jules Alford bound the defendants over to the city court, declaring that the law was unconstitutional in that it denied the right of trial by jury. This afternoon County Solicitor Stallworth filed with Judge O. J. Sammes of the city court a petition for the issuance of a writ of habeas corpus to compel Judge Alford to try the cases.

The North Dakota Farce.

Hon. D. R. Streeter, editor of the Emmons County, North Dakota, Record, published at Linton, writes: "The manifold evils of the prohibition law in this state are on the increase rather than the decrease. Blind pigs exist in most parts of the state and no sooner is one of these squelched than another reckless person steps in to take its place. The drug stores are doing a flourishing business and there are probably a third more in the state than there is a legitimate demand for."

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Distinctly Different.

(Portland Argus.) General Fred Grant insists that he is still in favor of restoring the army canteens. It appears that General Grant is a temperance man instead of a prohibitionist, as has been reported.—Haverhill Gazette.

A difference with a distinction which prohibitionists wholly ignore.

Internal Revenue Increase.
(Associated Press Dispatch.) Washington, Nov. 1.—Surpassing the most sanguine expectations of the treasury officials, the internal revenue reports are bounding upward. For October the figures show \$23,694,484, an increase of \$1,616,735 over the corresponding month last year and that there will be some additions to the receipts credited to last month's account.

So far this fiscal year, up to October 30, the internal revenue receipts have run \$4,575,99 ahead of the same period last year, the total since July 1 being \$89,783,087.

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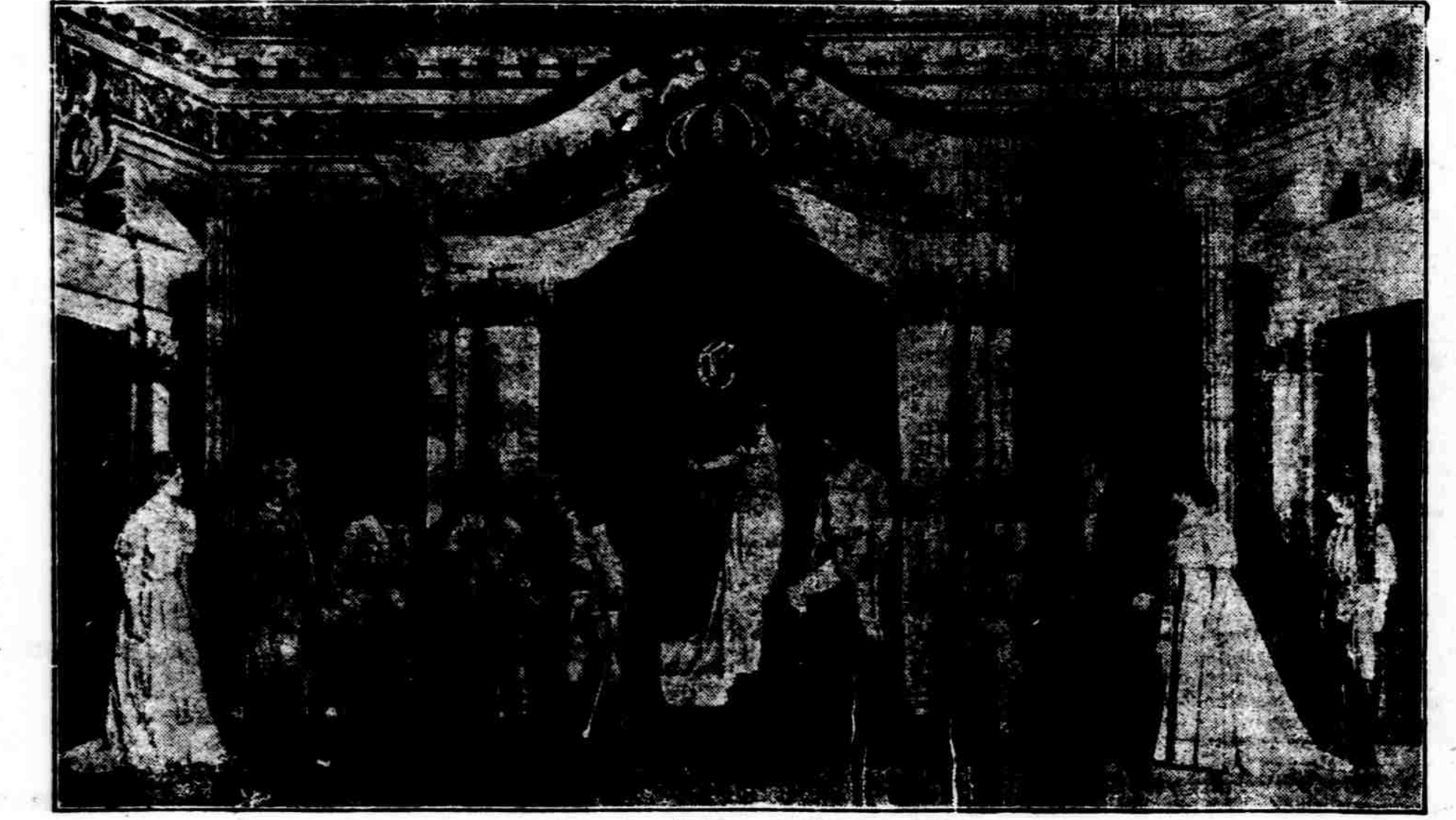
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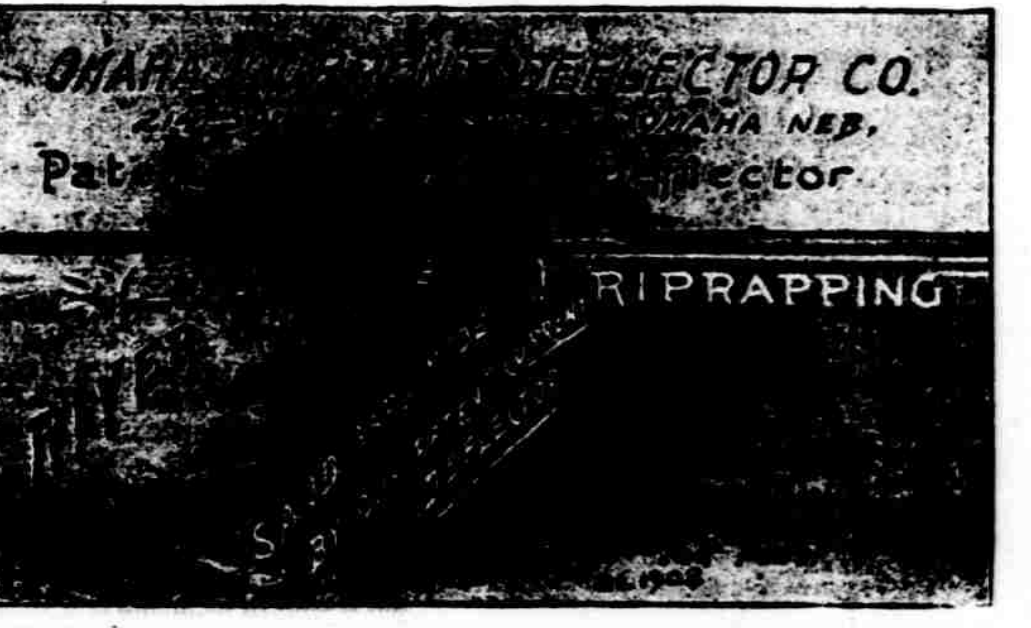
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